



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Regular Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting Minutes February 25, 2026.

1. Present: Thomas McCartney, Chairman
David Harrington, Commissioner
Mark Tomko, Commissioner
Daniel Kirchheimer, Commissioner
Keith Purdy, Commissioner
- Others: John Paffie, Chief
Charles Paffie, Assistant Chief
Kahl Miller, Assistant Chief
Steve Langeland, Assistant Chief
Jon Weber, ST 1 Captain
Chris S. Lupold, ST 3 1st Lieutenant
Walter Rochester, ST 1 2nd Lieutenant
Bob Hamilton, ST 2 2nd Lieutenant
Don Albrecht, ST 4 2nd Lieutenant
and approximately 7 members of the public
- District Staff: Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing
Marisa Butler, Fire District Treasurer
Clay Ellis, Director of Communications
Dusty McCartney, Director of Facilities
2. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner McCartney.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner McCartney.
4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes
- 4.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2026
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.
- 4.2 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.
5. Correspondence Report
- 5.1 Received and Filed Email from the AFDSNY Fire District Affairs for February/March 2026.
- 5.2 Received and Filed Broome County Fire News January 2026
- 5.3 Received and Filed the Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2026
- 5.4 Received Communication from Capital Area Fire District Association regarding Financial Training for Commissioner & Treasurers being held in Cortland at The Hub, McNeil & Company. Cost is \$125 per person, and Hotel accommodations are \$110.



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5.5 Receive Communication from Patrick Harman, Recreation Dept Director for the Town of Vestal, requesting use of Station 3 for their Annual Summer Employee training on June 19, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Station 3 President Devin Hansen approved the use.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to allow the Town of Vestal Recreation Department to use Station 3 on June 19, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

6. Bid Openings - None

7. Scheduled Appointments (Guests) - None

8. Operations Report – Chief Paffie (or Designee)

There were approximately 62 total calls with 14 to Binghamton University

Responded to 3 Mutual aid calls

-2nd alarm house fire in Endicott

-2nd alarm house fire in Endwell

-AFA in Silver Lake- False Alarm

Response for a small fire on a stove top caused by a dog and a pizza box and an MVA with entrapment on Route 26

Education

There were several of members that have completed the Fire Officer 1 modules

Some members continuing onto Fire Officer 2 starting this weekend

Names were submitted for 2026 Foam Training at TEEX

Vestal hosted an Ice Rescue Class - 1 attendee from VFD

Chief/Officer class hosted by BCOES at Aswad facility completed with 5 attendees

Foam- Discussion still ongoing for replacement of Foam Pumper

Meeting with FAB and BOFC - good open discussions about several topics.

9. Department Business Report – President Eaton (or Designee)

Commissioner Kirchheimer reported out, on behalf of President Eaton, that there was a Ceremonial Unit training this past weekend and all went well.

10. Station Reports (Fund Raiser/Special Events/Member Requests) – No Reports

a. Station 1

b. Station 2

c. Station 3

d. Station 4



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11. Membership (New and Current)

11.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the request from Station 3 to terminate Firefighter Daniel Coleman for failure to complete the requirements for a probationary member.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

12. Commissioner Report

a. Commissioner McCartney – Administrative/Policy

- Commissioner Report

- Administrative: office work, voucher/purchasing reviews; organizational updates presented Feb 2.
- Physical Program: discussions with commissioners (Feb 3–4), secretary/day crew (Feb 9); continued FAB coordination.
- HR/Staffing: attorney consultation on potential part-time hire.
- Training Site: met Delta Engineers (Feb 5) on stairway updates/prints; coordinated Battalion 3 chiefs for training site support letter—sign-offs received except Johnson City; next reviews by Broome County Fire Coordinator and Director of Emergency Services before County Executive.
- Media/Grants: training site news conference scheduled; County Executive to speak on community grants for safety improvements.
- Purchasing: Home Depot purchasing process finalized and tested.
- Insurance: special meeting with insurer; quote received on raising deductible; fleet list verified by Commissioner Purdy; insurer provided input on cybersecurity policy; Commissioner Kirchheimer to update.
- Records/Facilities: records management meeting; solicited stairway quotes (Murphy’s Metal Shop, Pritchard Development, plus two).

b. Commissioner Harrington – Financial/Records Management/Quality Assurance/LOSAP

- Commissioner Report

• Finance, Grants, and Records Management

- Budget: reviewing District Policy 104; preparing submission forms/process; budget packets distribution verified; chiefs/commissioners reminded of key dates.
- Grants: meetings held on purchasing/grants policy (Feb 10, monthly); marketing strategy for Fred Singer facility; next meeting Mar 3.
- Active grants: VFA grant due “today” for second set of turnout gear for green tags; exploring additional grants; Fred Singer donations handout nearly complete; NY DEC grant awarded for wildland equipment.
- Donations: Fred Singer Corporation registered with NYS OAG Charities Bureau (Dec); enables 50% employer matching via corporate benevolence.



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- Records Management: monthly meeting Feb 18; training bulletins planned—NERIS soon, RedNMX in April; ESEP/OSHA reminders to prevent data loss; RMC Rose to document procedures; develop FAQ for RedNMX/NERIS.
- SOGs: Chief Miller leading SOG reviews; meeting Feb 21; aim to cross-reference district policies with department SOGs.
 - SOGs: Chief Miller leading SOG reviews; meeting Feb 21; aim to cross-reference district policies with department SOGs.
- Governance Question on SOG Approvals
 - Question whether commissioners must sign department SOGs distinct from district policy approvals; plan to consult legal counsel; awaiting clarification.

c. Commissioner Tomko – Training/Safety Programs/Fred Singer Training Facility

- Commissioner Report

- Physical Packets and Physicals Scheduling
 - Fiscal packets to be sent end of week/early next week; FAB completion date moved to Aug 1.
 - Stations to submit questions for Dr. Grippo before Mar 23 meeting.
 - Enhanced physicals: stations to choose Monday nights; Lourdes Occupational Health PTs to conduct at stations; scheduling spreadsheet to collect dates.
- AED Program Coverage and Legal Review
 - AEDs covered under Good Samaritan due to lease/reporting structure; program history noted; legal coverage under review with new coordinator; formal confirmation pending.
- Live Burn EMS Coverage Planning
 - Seeking schedules to arrange EMS coverage; if Vestal EMS unavailable, charges may apply; alternatives include Harpur's Ferry (when in session) and Broome County fly car/paramedic; goal: secure free coverage with 30 days' notice; EMTs in fire training cannot transport; must call 911.
- Training Sign-Ups and Compliance Tracking
 - Simplifying sign-ups to one-page form; QR code and DocuSign workflow for tracking; paper option retained; goal: improved compliance.
- Contracts and Safety Updates
 - Two-year contracts for Fred Singer sites going out; no injuries; one minor incident scraping a car with Tower One; new gloves performing well; broader procurement explored.
- Use of Non-Issued PPE (Gloves, Helmets)
 - Discussions on members using non-issued PPE; items must meet standards and be approved; Operations/Chief to evaluate deviations; board review if standards differ; Derek and team to coordinate and report next month.



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- Training Progress and Upcoming Activities
 - Jan–Feb trainings completed; positive feedback from the members; March classroom training scheduled via BCEFI; scheduling live burns; Safety Officer Eaton and Director Waddell aligning reporting/goals for 2026; monthly reporting planned; improved PPE use observed; audits planned for gear inspections, rope logs, station inspections.
- Training Site Sign Installation and Lift Rental
 - Evaluating lift rental to install new sign (by Steve Gallo); Tower One may not reach; alternatives assessed; consider refreshing Fred Singer site sign; engage Pritchard Development and consult Jerry Lott; potential lift vendor at United Rental.

d. Commissioner Kirchheimer – Facilities/Information Technology/Physical Security/Human Resources

- Commissioner Report

- Facilities Maintenance and Vendor Management
 - Cleaning vendor terminated due to poor service (except stripping/waxing); board discussed not paying Feb invoice; no vote; voucher not signed.
 - Finalizing three quotes for new cleaning services across five sites.
 - Maintenance updates:
 - Station 1: truck room light fixtures replaced; small roof leak addressed; new hose reel installed.
 - Station 2: boiler repaired; women’s toilet replaced; heat float switch replaced.
 - Station 3: women’s toilet fixed; mop sink faucet replaced.
 - Station 4 (old station) sale under contract; a couple more weeks projected.
 - Weber’s Plumbing & Heating thanked for tasks.
- Physical Security Updates
 - Cardholder/access-level audits by Director Colin White; lists to station FAB members; no notable security events; additional reports available.
- IT and Cybersecurity
 - Apparatus laptops (Dell Toughbooks) on backorder per The Computer Shop.
 - ESET computer use class/policy assessment delayed; report expected next meeting.
 - Recommendation to purchase cybersecurity insurance via Smith Brothers per Pyramid’s advice.
- IT Systems Status and User Access
 - Bluetooth HDMI connectors working at Station 1; high ticket volume for logins/access/passwords.
 - Reviewing policy on retaining/revoking old licenses for former officers or changed access.
 - Jean Stout granted T-Drive access for photography.
 - Comprehensive list of computers/logins obtained from Pyramid; attached to report.
 - Coordinating with Dave Harrington on a QR code for training site access.



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- Pyramid installed new software to assist members.
- Approval secured to order another computer; follow-up with Chief 32 for new laptop.
- One laptop only works when plugged in; plan to replace battery or laptop.
- Positive feedback on Pyramid's support; working with Dave Foland and IAR to document work and align with current IT Director.
- George Basila's Station 1 laptop converted to access district network.
- Member Relations and Gym Membership Initiative
 - Increased member interest in gym memberships; 2026 budget did not include them.
 - Plan to scope participants (start with green tags, then yellow tags).
 - Collect interest via sign-up with status; chiefs/captains to gauge commitment; coordinate with finance on affordability; existing quote available.
- TV Installation and Equipment Issues
 - TVs intended for wall installation arrived damaged; Amazon replacing at no cost; electrician scheduled for meeting room TV power install; Cat5 on site.
- Facilities Maintenance and Heating Issues
 - YTD: 7 work orders closed; 5 open awaiting parts; one requires lift rental to repair truck bay heater (scheduled later this month).
 - Two heating failures during extreme cold weather were addressed with temporary fixes.
 - Sprinkler inspection at Station 4: no issues; Station 2 oversized stove concern to be resolved shortly.
 - Station 3: dishwasher and 3-bay sink parts arrived; cabinets to be removed in-house; ice jam caused ceiling leak—temporary fix; plan to replace insulation/drywall and consider heat tape after warm weather.
 - Lighting and TV upgrades are expected within 30 days.
 - Station 2 heating: long-term plan to replace boiler; gas-fired heaters for truck room in this year's budget to reduce boiler load; possible heat pumps/RTUs for meeting room next year; large boilers ~23 years old; parts delays common; temporary fixes applied.

e. Commissioner Purdy – Asset/Equipment/Fleet Management

- Commissioner Report

- Equipment, Quartermaster, and Inventory Updates
 - Inventory complete through end of Jan; all items signed out.
 - Missing: one pair size 8-wide boots from Nov; serial on file.
 - 2026 purchases started: pricing underway for lock on secure central storage cage (keyless entry) targeting 2027 budget.
 - New Unication pagers/chargers stored; Watchdog and Motorola chargers removed and given to Bob Hamilton.
 - Flammable cabinet moved; storage cage turned over to Water Rescue.
 - Concern about leaking bleach; decision needed to prevent leakage.



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- Pallets of dishwasher equipment were delivered; quartermaster requests advance notice of deliveries.
- Wildland shirts: 10-year expiration like turnout gear; limited inventory expiring end of 2025; need replacement list.
- Suggestion to dispose of perishable COVID-era liquids and reassess restocking; agreement voiced.
- Fleet Status and Constraints (M2, M3)
 - Fleet list updated for insurance.
 - Weight reduction ongoing for M2/M3 to meet 19,500 GVW; keeping full water/foam requires removing equipment from M3, compromising mission; options needed to restore mission on suitable vehicle; budget/finance engagement needed; no active committee or replacement plan.
- Apparatus Procurement and Costs (Rescue 2, Tower 1, Brush 1)
 - Rescue 2: Freightliner chassis approved; awaiting revised drawing for approval.
 - Tower 1 (to be sold): vendor quote to repair to sellable condition \$84,160.30 (Vander Molen Fire Apparatus); detailed quote to be distributed; separate discussion suggests full certification quote around \$184,000; concerns about ROI; as-is value may be low due to failures.
 - Brush 1: bidder issued additional cost due to delay/materials \$6,578.90.
 - Chief's cars and UTV: subject to permissive referendum; no active work until approved.
 - Millertown Garage to repair HME equipment on Engines 4, 3, likely 2; parts in hand, scheduling pending.
 - New Brush 3 in bay and being put in service; UTV 32-2 out for evaluation; tire campaign completed for trailers.
- Surplus/Sale Process
 - Query on sale of Midi 3 noted on agenda.
- Sale and Certification Strategy for Tower 1
 - Debate on repairing/aerial-only certification versus as-is sale; Keith to analyze quote, work with VanderMolen, and report; storage condition management at VanderMolen to prevent deterioration.
- New Trailers and NFPA Compliance Needs
 - New spill trailer and UTV 2 trailer arrived; not NFPA compliant (missing lights/graphics/safety items); budget request to be prepared; staged pending possible relocation to Station 2.
- Trailers and Boat Trailer Titles/Plates
 - Paige handling chiefs' plates; trailers to follow; boat's trailer at Station 4 lacks title; signatures needed from Green to resolve; then process plates.
- Apparatus Status and Identifiers
 - Brush 3 responding as Utility 3 until deputy fire coordinator inspects/designates as brush truck; old Utility 3 now Brush 1; programming updates underway.



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13. Director of Communications-Clay Ellis

- Training Site Support Letter and Next Steps
 - Support letter signed by Western Broome chiefs; to be sent to County Executive after meeting with the fire coordinator and Director of Emergency Services; letter being held until briefing.

14. Secretary Report

14.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the License Agreement between Vestal Fire District and Conklin Fire Department to use the Fred Singer Training Facility on March 28, 2026.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

- LOSAP Points Posting Status
 - Station 1 posted Feb 13; Station 3 status being checked; submission to Firefly for Annual Report depends on when the postings occur.
- Records Management: Cabinets and Grant Application
 - Need for additional Datum cabinets (~\$3,300 for two) to organize paper records; consider NYS Archives LGRMIF grant (up to \$75,000) for conversion/organization/supplies/advisory; due Apr 1; awards Jun-Jul; RMO to submit; some records must remain on paper.

15. Elections (Annual or Special) - None

16. Treasurer Report

16.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve January 2026 Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Budget vs. Actual report. All reports and bank reconciliations were reviewed by Commissioner McCartney.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

16.2 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to accept and deposit a check from West Endicott Fire District in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of (10) 100ft lengths of Surplus LDH Hose.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

17. Approval to Properly Audit and Pay Claims as Submitted

17.1 Motion Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the Audit of Claims for 2026 Expenses & Encumbrances dated February 26, 2026, in total amount of \$58,912.96.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.



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17.2 Motion Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the following changes made to January 28, 2026, Meeting Audit of Claims:

- Accounts Payable: \$20,709.64
 - 2025 Encumbrances: 17,779.39
 - 2026 Expenses: 37,109.16
- Claims Overall Total: \$75,598.19

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
 Motion Carried.

18. Director of Purchasing Report

18.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve to purchase (2) Super Vac 20" PPV Fans with (2) 12 Ah Batteries, Dual Ac Charger, Shore Power in the amount of \$6,157.50 each for a total amount of \$12,315.00. from Fire-End & Croker Corporation. These items are budgeted items for Station 1 and Station 4.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
 Motion Carried.

18.2 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve to purchase (2) Super Vac 16" PPV Fans with (2) 12 Ah Batteries, Dual AC Charger, Shore Power-Wheel and Handle Version the amount of \$5,737.50 each for a total amount of \$11,475.00 from Fire-End & Croker Corporation. These items are budgeted items for Station 2 and Station 3.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
 Motion Carried.

18.3 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve to purchase (1) Res Q Jack Kit (2 Car Strut Deluxe Kit) for an estimated cost of \$25,873.00 from Jerome Fire Equipment Co., Inc. This item is a budgeted item for Station 2.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
 Motion Carried.

18.4 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve the following budget transfer:

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
A3410.410- Operations	A3410.202- Operational Fire Equipment	\$ 88,000.00	Cover Reclassification of Prior Encumbrances

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
 Motion Carried.



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18.5 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve debit card expenses from January 2026 in the amount of \$15,230.60.
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

18.6 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve all Chief’s Monthly Mileage Reports from January 28, 2026, to February 25,2026.
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

18.7 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, Commissioner Purdy to approve Lighthouse Electric & Property Maintenance in the amount of \$950 for Station One AV hardwiring.
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

19. Resolutions

19.1 Resolution 2026-004 Expend from Capital Reserve Fund for Vehicle Equipment Acquisition
WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law § 6-g, the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal, County of Broome, State of New York, established the “Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund” to pay for the cost of fire fighting vehicles of the Vestal Fire District, including, but not limited to, ladder trucks, pumpers, tankers, rescue vehicles, squads and vans; or modification and improvement pertaining to such vehicles; and
WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District authorized and approved the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$125,000 from the Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund to purchase (1) new Chief Response Vehicle to replace a current Chief Response Vehicle as determined to be necessary for the Fire District pursuant to Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution is subject to permissive referendum.
MOTION TO ADOPT the Resolution made by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Purdy.

A vote was then taken upon the motion for adoption with the following results:

THOMAS MCCARTNEY, CHAIRMAN	VOTING	AYE
DAVID HARRINGTON, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
MARK TOMKO, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
DANIEL KIRCHHEIMER, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
KEITH PURDY, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE

The Chairman then declared said Resolution adopted by the majority of the permanent vote of the total voting power of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal.

Secretary to place legal notice in the Press and Sun-Bulletin on March 2, 2026.

19.2 Resolution 2026-005 Expend from Capital Reserve Fund for Vehicle Equipment Acquisition
WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law § 6-g, the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal,



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County of Broome, State of New York, established the “Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund” to pay for the cost of fire fighting vehicles of the Vestal Fire District, including, but not limited to, ladder trucks, pumpers, tankers, rescue vehicles, squads and vans; or modification and improvement pertaining to such vehicles; and **WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District authorized and approved the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$120,000 from the Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund to purchase new UTV(s) Crew Cab Vehicle as determined to be necessary for the Fire District pursuant to Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution is subject to permissive referendum. **MOTION TO ADOPT** the Resolution made by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko.

A vote was then taken upon the motion for adoption with the following results:

THOMAS MCCARTNEY, CHAIRMAN	VOTING	AYE
DAVID HARRINGTON, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
MARK TOMKO, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
DANIEL KIRCHHEIMER, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE
KEITH PURDY, COMMISSIONER	VOTING	AYE

The Chairman then declared said Resolution adopted by the majority of the permanent vote of the total voting power of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal.

Secretary to place legal notice in the Press and Sun-Bulletin on March 2, 2026.

20. Policies and Procedures

21. Unfinished Business

21.1 Review proposal for the Sale of Midi Pumper 32-3

Offer \$20,000 accepted; discussion on optics/maintenance; Station 3 preferred the sale confirmed by Assistant Chief Miller and 1st Lieutenant Lupold; proceed with sale to Little Meadows FD.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to sell Midi Pumper 32-3 with a VIN # of 1HTWEAAN74J090228 with approx. 16,271 miles to Little Meadows Fire Company of P.O. Box 345, Little Meadows, PA 18830 in the amount of \$20,000.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

21.2 Clarification on Motion 22.1 from December 17, 2025, meeting that approved the purchase of (8) Akron Revolution 6” NH Long Handle x 5” Storz w/30-degree Intake Valve- with Cap & Chain not to exceed \$18,000 from Fire-End & Croker.

Prior approval up to \$18,000; new technical input from TFT; consult Chief Langland; item tabled pending review.

21.3 Discussion on Station 4 siren activation – Letter to Broome County Office of Emergency Services 2025 data: 371 siren activations without fire emergency; breakdown provided; four neighbor complaints;



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one town supervisor requested suspension; county stance is binary activation due to liability; Station 4 membership favors keeping siren for redundancy; no decision; seek written county position; collect neighbor input. Later discussion reaffirmed need to draft a formal letter to Director of Emergency Services requesting analysis of siren policy for SUNY Binghamton detector-initiated calls and feasibility of excluding Station 4 tones; consider engaging legislator Dan Reynolds and attorney guidance.

22. New Business

22.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve to purchase (1) Super Vac 18" PPV Fan with (2) 12 Ah Batteries, Dual AC Charger, Shore Power-Wheel/Handle Version in the amount of \$5,902.50 from Fire-End & Croker Corporation. This item will come out of the New Tower 32-1 project.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

22.2 Discussion on Purchase of (2) 85" TV's and (2) Mounts for Station 2.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the purchase of (2) 85" TV's and (2) Mounts for Station 2. not to exceed \$2,000.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

22.3 Discussion on Insurance Coverage – approval not to exceed \$115,000

Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve the proposal from Smith Brothers Insurance in the amount of \$111,391.70 with changing the Cyber Liability amount from \$1203.00 to \$2593.00 not exceed \$115,000 for the overall cost.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.

22.3 Discussion on Fire District Memberships to FASNY, NYSAFC, NVFC

Reviewed FASNY, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, NVFC; district pays memberships for commissioners (update Chair/Vice Chair) and current chiefs for NYSAFC; consensus district would not need a separate FASNY membership; no district membership to NVFC; update paid memberships to current leadership.

22.4 Discussion to advertise for part-time assistant secretary.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to advertise for a part-time Assistant Secretary for 2026 working up to 20 hours per week. The advertisement needs to be on the fire district website for 30 days.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None.
Motion Carried.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
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Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

23. Public Input Session – Members of the public may speak on meeting items only.

- Apparatus Loan Request
 - Neighboring department requested lending Engine 5 due to quint out of service and engine refurbishment; discuss MOU/contract, fees, process; follow-up needed. Subsequent proposal: \$1 sale of Engine 5 to Endwell with \$1 buyback to shift insurance/liability; Endwell to maintain insurance; consult attorney; proceed to draft agreement; note loss of reserve access during term.
- Disposal of Surplus Obsolete Radio Equipment
 - Surplus out-of-date Motorola radios/pagers/chargers; low market demand; some base station items on asset list require write-off; Board can dispose under GML; Bob Hamilton to prepare disposal plan with aggregate value approach.
- Agenda Posting Requirements under Open Meetings Law
 - Agendas not required under Open Meetings Law per NYS Fire District Officer Guide; Chair to confirm with attorney and report next meeting.
- Station 3 Digital Signage Grant Status
 - Ongoing effort: funds believed in Donna Lupardo's office; release unclear; risk of fronting money; explore county small community fund alternative; board to inquire again.
- Brush 1 Project Status, Cost Increase
 - Public questions about cost increase (~\$6,000) and valve purchase delays; compile timeline/vendor input; analysis to identify failures/corrective actions; special district meeting set for further discussion on the project; Commissioner Purdy to analyze valves with Chief Langland; new quote likely; if >\$20,000, competitive bidding is required.
- Training Approvals
 - Approved members to attend Vehicle Extrication starting Mar 10 at 5: Ryan Teed, Colin Allis, Becca Cetta; Chief Paffie to email details to Secretary Bowen and record approvals.
- Scheduling of Special Meeting and Additional Agenda Items
 - Special meeting: Mar 11, 6:30 PM at Station 3; primary topic Brush 1; possible addition: Old Tower One expense/central cost if ready; public, recorded, limited to noticed topics.

24. Announcements

24.1 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning begins March 16 and runs through May 14.

24.2 Next Board of Fire Commissioner meeting will be on March 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Vestal Fire Department, Station #3.

25. Executive Session

25.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person under Public Officers Law Section 105 (f).
All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None. Motion Carried.



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Enter Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to exit the executive session and enter back into regular session.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None. Motion Carried.

Exit Executive Session at 9:11 p.m.

No decisions were made from the Executive session.

26. Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

All in favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Tomko, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary